

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 /137 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9665

USEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 430

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 5452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IT, RO

SUBJECT: GATT REVIEW OF IMPORT/PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEMES OF
SOUTH AFRICA AND ITALY

REF: STATE 223115

1. SUMMARY. ROMANIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT REFERRAL OF ITALIAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSIT SCHEME TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. DELEGATION WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY BE ADVISED TO CONTACT USDEL ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SEEKING TO FEND OFF REPRESENTATION, MFT DIRECTOR DUMITRESCU AGREED TO SEE E/C: COUNSELOR JULY 16. DUMITRESCU INDICATED THAT ROMANIAN MISSION IN GENEVA HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ENDORSE BOP COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF ITALIAN FOREX DEPOSIT
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SYSTEM. ROMANIAN POSITION SAID TO REFLECT UNHAPPINESS OVER WAY IN

WHICH SOME COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HAD ABUSED THEIR RIGHTS ON BALANCE OF PAYMENT GROUNDS. ITALY WAS VIEWED AS ONE OF THOSE OFFENDING COUNTRIES. GOR FOUND ITALIAN CLAIM OF BOP PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAD SUFFERED MORE SEVERE PROBLEMS WITHOUT RESORTING TO MEASURES ADOPTED BY ITALIANS.

3. NOTING DUMITRESCU'S INDICTMENT CONFINED EXCLUSIVELY TO ITALY, E/C COUNSELOR INQUIRED WHETHER ROMANIA SHARED SAME VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME. DUMITRESCU'S FIRST SUGGESTED THAT ROMANIA DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THERE WAS PROBLEM SINCE SOUTH AFRICAN NOT RECOGNIZED AS COUNTRY. MORE SERIOUSLY, DUMITRESCU INDICATED THAT SINCE ROMANIA HAD NO TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IT HAD NO REASON TO COMMENT ON SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION. IN FACT, ROMANIA WAS PLEASED IF SOUTH AFRICAN SCHEME PROVED IMPEDIMENT TO TRADE.

4. PRESSED ON APPLICABILITY OF ROMANIAN STANCE TO GATT MEMBERS OTHER THAN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DUMITRESCU SAID ROMANIAN SUPPORT FOR BOP COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS MEASURES WAS NOT LIMITED TO ONE CATEGORY OF GATT MEMBERS. ROMANIA SAW UTILITY IN GATT REVIEW OF ALL SUCH MEASURES, INCLUDING THOSE ADOPTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. IN CONCLUSION DUMITRESCU NOTED THAT AS CONSEQUENCE OF OUR DEMARCHE HE WOULD SEND GOR'S GENEVA CONTINGENT SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION TO COORDINATE WITH USDEL ON THIS AGENDA ITEM.

6. ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NOT PRESENTED AS QUID PRO QUO, DUMITRESCU SEIZED OCCASION OF REPRESENTATION TO APPEAL FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN (1) USING OUR GOOD OFFICES TO ENCOURAGE EC TO LIBERALIZE ITS TRADE WITH ROMANIA AND (2) UNDERTAKING NEW EFFORT TO REACH ACCOMMODATION IN GATT WORKING PARTY ON ROMANIAN TARIFF. WE WILL REPORT HIS PITCH ON THIS TOPICS SEPARATELY.
BARNES

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